

CBC Public Forum & Learning Community – *Assessment Proposal*

The **Columbia Basin Collaborative *Integration/Recommendation Group (CBC I/RG)*** is asked to endorse a *Needs & Opportunity Assessment* to determine the efficacy of combining the **CBC I/RG** with a Basin-wide **Public Forum** to provide interactive communication within and between Basin communities, individuals, cultures, and the **CBC I/RG**. The *Assessment* will also explore the capacity for the **CBC I/RG** to promote a **Learning Community** to sustain a Basin-wide dedication to learning that may/will be required to achieve the salmon restoration Goals established by the **Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (Task Force)**.

The **CBC I/RG** is not asked to financially support this proposed *Assessment*, just to endorse it – which will hopefully provide sufficient significant support to attract the necessary funding. Upon completion, the *Assessment* findings will be presented to the **CBC I/RG**. The *Assessment* is expected to be completed in nine months. This *Assessment* presentation will likely include an additional proposal to establish a pilot **Public Forum /Learning Community** – whose design will be informed by the *Assessment* – to function for 3-5 years in order to test the hypothesis that a **Public Forum /Learning Community** will achieve the desired outcomes, as well as provide opportunities to for refinement.

The **Public Forum** will provide:

- a means for the **Collaborative** to inform and be informed by Basin residents, and to foster
 - ***Informed, confident, influential Collaborative*** – enabling government, agencies and institutions to wisely and boldly act faster than extinction, to effectively anticipate changing conditions (climatological, ecological, economic, civic and cultural), to regenerate salmon abundance and Basin well-being with a minimum of instability, and maximizing general well-being.
 - Methods for Basin-wide feedback and prospective support for initiatives, efforts and projects that will be necessary for the Collaborative and the Basin to achieve the Task Force Goals for salmon recovery throughout the Basin.
 - Opportunities for Basin residents to act as the conscience for the CBC.

The **Learning Community** will

- Create and support a system “to educate the region on Task Force Goals and how this **Collaborative**’s effort is seeking to make progress toward those Goals; and foster a salmon conservation ethic, regional collaboration, and strong leadership to meet the goals established by this effort.” [***Collaborative Charter***]

Needs & Opportunity Assessment Process

Adaptive management approach to researching Columbia Basin Public Forum – collect data, refine instruments, do it again at a large scale. Run through the process 2-3 times.

Literature review of facilitation processes to identify options and plan the process to best fit the findings of the assessment. This will include reviewing approaches and lessons learned from major planning efforts in the Columbia including Northwest Power and Conservation Council's subbasin planning process in the 2000s and ESA stakeholder involvement processes in the region as well as nationally prominent approaches and experiences in large-scale natural resource management.

Proposed steps for data collection:

1. Develop steering committee of experts to help develop key assessment questions and an initial list of key stakeholders to interview and survey.
2. Develop initial interview instrument
3. Conduct first round of interviews with 10 key people to develop questions for more in-depth data collection. One focus of initial interviews and working with the steering committee will be to identify stakeholders and the best way to communicate with them. This will be useful for next steps in data collection and also for crafting a communications plan for the larger project.
4. Develop the data collection frame that will include a list of those to be interviewed and ways to distribute surveys to different types of stakeholders in different areas of the basin
5. Conduct 40 interviews with key people
6. Develop a survey informed by steering, committee and data collected to date through the literature review and interviews.
7. Pretest the survey with samples from each stakeholder group to refine the survey instrument and strategy as needed.
8. Implement the survey across stakeholder groups
9. Analyze the data
10. Write up the results

Deliverables:

1. Report interpreting results to answer assessment questions
2. Appendices with data collection methods and findings presented by survey and interview questions and the literature review
3. Glossy, infographic heavy executive summary for decisions makers and the public of findings
4. Implementation plan for the Columbia Basin Public Forum that draws from assessment findings

***Assessment Host* – Sustainable Fisheries Foundation**

- **Note:** the proposed *Needs & Opportunity Assessment* is best researched by an entity with the character, reputation and capacity to generate and host accessible, open, transparent, and civil communication. The **Sustainable Fisheries Foundation (SFF)** is a candidate to conduct this *Assessment*.

SFF was launched in 1995 as a trans-boundary (US and Canada) convener of stakeholders and interests related to salmon and sustainable fisheries. **SFF** has hosted gatherings that include **Towards Sustainable Fisheries: Balancing the Conservation and Use of Salmon and Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest**, convened in Victoria, B.C. during April 26 - 30, 1996, attended by over 500 individuals; **Towards Ecosystem - Based Management in the Upper Columbia River Basin** (convened in Castlegar, B.C. during April 27 - 30, 1998; attended by over 400 individuals); and **Towards Ecosystem-Based Management: Breaking Down the Barriers in the Columbia River Basin and Beyond** (convened in Spokane, WA during April 27 - May 1, 2002; attended by over 840 individuals). Kevin Scribner is the current SFF Board Chair.

Project Schedule: 9 months

Budget: \$102,300.00 – estimated

\$10,200.00 Admin Fee (10%) – *Sustainable Fisheries Foundation*

\$12,000.00 Project Management – *Sustainable Fisheries Foundation*

\$80,100 Project Research – *Arrowleaf Group* www.arrowleafgroup.com

Arrowleaf Group Budget:

\$8,000 literature review, including write as an appendix of the main report

\$38,100 for 50 interviews, including analysis and write up

\$24,000 for survey, including analysis, write up, and developing the frame and strategies for approaching diverse stakeholders in multiple areas of the Basin.

\$10,000 synthesis report, including executive summary, that addresses the main assessment questions using findings from data collection and the literature review